

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

RODRIGUEZ, Ciro D. (Democrat)  
Representative, 28th District, Texas  
Elected 12Apr97 to the 105th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Piedras Negras, Mexico – 9 December 1946

Home: San Antonio, Texas

Marital Status: Married (Carolina) - 1 child

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: St. Mary's Univ, BA, 1973; Our Lady of the Lake Univ, MSW, 1978

Military: None

Profession: Legislator, educator, social worker

Political: Harlandale School Board, 1975-87; Texas House, 1987-97. Ran in a special election in Mar97 for the seat of Rep Frank Tejeda (D), who died on 30Jan97. Received 67% of the vote in the runoff. Reelected in 1998 with 91%; in 2000 with 89%; and in 2002 with 71.5%.

Rep Rodriguez is a liberal. In the 106th Congress, opposed additional rounds of base closures and realignments in 2001 and 2003. Expressed support for a bill allowing high-priority veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency health care services. During debate on the Kosovo war powers resolution, said the military must remain fully ready to respond to traditional threats to our national security but we must not be afraid or unwilling to take action to stop or prevent genocide where we can make a difference. Cosponsored a bill allowing military retirees over 65 to participate in FEHBP, CHAMPUS, or TRICARE. Discussed the potential of Brooks AFB as it becomes an environmental studies center evolving from a military installation to first-of-its-kind "city base." Expressed concern about higher-than-normal rates of disease around Kelly AFB. Believed a move to shut down the Selective Service System "sends a message that we are not concerned about readiness or preparedness." Supported Army JROTC programs citing them as an effective recruiting tool for attracting Latinos and African-Americans. Following an AF announcement to halt RIFs at Brooks AFB, said "it is critical to our national defense that we retain the research capabilities that exist at Brooks." Viewed the recruiting slump as a threat to readiness; predicted more reserves would have to be called to active duty. Ardent opponent of the draft. Concerned with FY00 DoD auth bill language added in cmte requiring the AF to prematurely identify the core logistics capability requirements for maintenance and repair of the C-17.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, said Kelly AFB area residents deserved answers to their health concerns, noting that the AF was spending \$5M to research possible health problems that may result from pollution at the base. Joined several members in questioning the credibility of the A-76 process related to the awarding of a \$336M support services contract at Lackland AFB. Opposed the Efficient Facilities Initiative (EFI) to close more bases proposed by Sec/Def Rumsfeld. Objected to the inclusion of language in the FY03 DoD auth that he said would jeopardize wilderness study areas beneath the air space of the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR). Said the July 2002 conversion of Brooks AFB to Brooks City-Base would BRAC-proof the facility from another round of closings.

Additional: Member - Reserve Components Caucus; Army Caucus; Impact Aid Coalition  
AF Bases: Brooks AFB, Randolph AFB

## COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Terrorism, Unconventional Threats & Capabilities; Readiness  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS